

SENATE BILL 568

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2003 Regular Session
3r1266
CF 3r2256

By: **Senators Pinsky and Lawlah**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2003

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

Reassigned: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Taxation, February 7, 2003

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 21, 2003

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Educational Excellence Awards - Funding**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a minimum amount of funding appropriated annually
4 for Educational Assistance Grants to be allocated to institutions of higher
5 education in the State to fund Educational Excellence Awards; and generally
6 relating to funding for Educational Excellence Awards.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article - Education
9 Section 18-307
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article - Education**

15 18-307.

16 (a) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the Office shall compile
17 and certify lists for the entire State that rank applicants by financial need.

18 (b) All funds for annual initial grants shall be awarded from the statewide list
19 on the basis of greatest financial need.

1 (c) On or before May 1 of each year, the Office shall send each Senator and
2 each Delegate a list of individuals in each legislative district to whom Educational
3 Excellence Awards are awarded.

4 (d) (1) (I) [If State funds are available for this purpose, institutions]
5 INSTITUTIONS of higher education in the State may provide Educational Excellence
6 Awards to students who otherwise meet the requirements for receiving an
7 Educational Excellence Award but who apply after the March 1 deadline or have
8 other extenuating circumstances.

9 (II) AT LEAST \$3 MILLION OF THE TOTAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED
10 FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO INSTITUTIONS
11 OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE
12 AWARDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION.

13 (2) The Commission shall:

14 (i) Establish guidelines for the awarding of Educational Excellence
15 Awards by the institutions of higher education to the students; and

16 (ii) Adopt regulations necessary for the implementation of this
17 subsection.

18 (3) (i) The Commission shall allocate available funds to institutions of
19 higher education based on the proportion of State residents enrolled at each
20 institution who receive federal Pell Grants.

21 (ii) An institution of higher education that receives funds under
22 this paragraph shall provide the Commission with an annual audit describing the
23 disposition of the funds.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2003.